

**Dutchess County
Criminal Justice Council**

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022

Present: Mary Ellen Still, Chair, Director of Probation
William O'Neil, County Executive's Office
Rachel Kashimer, County Executive's Office
Dr. Gary Christensen, CJC Consultant
Jon Heller, D.C Probation, Special Populations Chair
Tom Angell, Office of the Public Defender, Re-Entry Co-Chair
Shirley Adams, Community Involvement Committee Chair
Karen DeSimone, D.C. Probation, Juvenile Justice Chair
Matthew Weishaupt, D.C. District Attorney's Office
Debra Long, Family Services
John T. Gildard, Citizen Appt
Ken Roman - Police Reform & Reinvention Collaborative
Honorable Frederick Romig, East Fishkill Town Justice
Pastor John Perez, Citizen Appointment, Faith Temple Church
Barrington R. Atkins, DC Legislator
Alisyn Gaffney, D.C Probation, Justice-Involved Women's Co-Chair
Honorable Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia, Centralized Arraignment Committee Chair
Martin Lynch, Project M.O.R.E.
Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, Commissioner of Behavioral & Comm. Health
Jean-Marie Niebuhr, Deputy Commissioner, DBCH
Robin Peritz, DBCH
Sabrina Marzouka, DCFS
Honorable. Joseph A. Egitto, Dutchess County Family Court
Honorable. Frank M. Mora, City of Poughkeepsie Court
Dr. Gary Collins, DBCH
Steve Miccio, PEOPLE USA, Diversion Committee Chair
Honorable Gerald Hayes, Citizen Appt
Honorable Denise M. Watson, Dutchess County Family Court
Honorable Gregory Johnston, Beacon City Court
Kelly Bunt, KB Forensics, Victims Committee Chair
Loren Petrella, County Executive's Office
Irma Machado, DOCCS, Re-Entry Committee Co-Chair
Bridget Goddard, DCFS
Anthony Pica, Deputy Superintendent D.C. Jail
Michele Romano, Coordinator

Guests: Kevin Warwick, Consultant ASAI
Tom Morris, Dutchess County Office of Probation
Marcus Molinaro, County Executive
Therese Lee, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office
Bobby Lane, Project M.O.R.E.
Krista Dahowski, Office of Probation

Colleen Pillus, County Executive's Office
Juanita McMahan, Project M.O.R.E.

1. **Approval of January 11, 2022 Minutes**-The minutes of January 11, 2022 were approved on a motion by Tom Angell, seconded by Shirley Adams.
2. **Special Populations Presentation—Kevin Warwick, Jon Heller and Marty Lynch**
Jon and Kevin reviewed the Special Populations Committee's accomplishments for 2021 using a power point presentation. They gave an overview of the the new JTC facility, the transitional housing program, the new program called RECHARGE (Re-Entry Community Housing and Resource Guided Empowerment) and Project M.O.R.E.'s new women's residence. They also spoke about the Medication Assisted Treatment initiative in the jail. They continue to have input on facility design regarding programming and the Infirmary. The Mental Health Challenges Subcommittee has been working on enhanced residential and nonresidential options for CJ clients with severe mental health issues in need of housing and other services.

The new facility is designed to benefit the clients. The special needs units will deliver evidence-based programming. Clients will participate in intensive treatment in their living units. The facility promotes a positive atmosphere for programming and a continuum of treatment. The group space on the units is more conducive for treatment than the current facility. The staff offices are in proximity to the programming.

The new RECHARGE program is the next logical step for RESTART clients. It provides safe and secure housing, case management, programming, opportunities for employment, education, and assistance with obtaining permanent housing.

The new women's residence has opened; it provides housing for up to 12 women and will provide gender-specific programming. Males and females will now have separate residences. There were photos of both facilities Screening will be conducted by Probation and Project M.O.R.E. will provide case management and services.

Judge Watson asked if women will be able to meet with family, especially children, while they're in the residence. Marty answered that there are provisions for visitation. After an orientation period, arrangements can be made for visits. The judge also asked about supervised visitation. Marty answered that staff are experienced case managers and if the supervision meets with legal requirements, he was confident it could be accommodated.

Pastor Perez asked about housing assistance and transportation for clients. Marty answered that they have many agencies assisting individuals in finding housing to fit their needs. Bridget Goddard answered that the Department of Community and Family Services works with individuals with transportation needs. Legislator Atkins asked if other locations for the program are being considered. Bill O'Neil observed that most residents will need the services located in Poughkeepsie but that alternative locations

could always be considered for various programs. Extensive renovations were made to the women's residence. There were no other comments or questions.

The next steps for the committee in 2022 will be continued enhancement of the RESTART and RECHARGE programs, more mental health options, assessment of housing options and collaborative work with the CJC consultant to evaluate outcomes and adjust program design based on these results. Also, there are plans to provide staff training and support trauma-informed efforts for programming at the present facility as well as the new facility.

Mary Ellen noted the new RECHARGE program will enable residents to gain employment, learn how to budget and manage their money and leave the residence with housing already arranged.

Bill O'Neil and Mary Ellen thanked Kevin, Marty, and Jon for presenting. County Executive Marcus Molinaro also expressed his gratitude for all the hard work performed by the Criminal Justice Council. He conveyed that the Council is a model for others to emulate. The accomplishments of the CJC are very inspirational and provide an opportunity for individuals to change their lives, build independence and achieve success. He said the CJC has provided the means to drive down recidivism which will keep people out of jail and emergency rooms. The CJC has given hope to those who are incarcerated through the innovative programs provided. He thanked and congratulated the Council for all their hard work.

3. **Jail/ATI/Safe Act Report -Therese Lee, Mary Ellen Still, Jean-Marie Niebuhr**

Due to the meeting falling in the beginning of the month, the reports for February were unavailable. They will be available at our next full Council meeting. There were no questions.

4. **Planning and Research Update—Gary Christensen**

Gary presented the stats for the jail population for January 2021 to January 2022. The jail population numbers are between 210 and 220. The Quality Assurance Committee continues to analyze the impact of bail reform. There were no questions.

5. **Committee Reports:**

Quality Assurance—Gary Christensen, Tom Angell, Bill Grady

Gary presented an analysis on the impact of bail reform in Dutchess County. Jon Heller spoke about the current pretrial process in the county and how we were able to adapt to bail reform. Despite the challenges, we are still able to develop release plans that best fit the needs of the individual. Gary asked how our practice of bail reform compares with other counties throughout our state. Jon answered that pretrial practices vary throughout the state, but we are recognized as one of the premier agencies.

Individuals who spent 30 plus days in our jail facility prior to bail reform were convicted of a crime at a 98.4% rate. Post-bail reform admissions were cut by 2/3. The average

misdemeanor admissions pre-bail reform was 1,233 a year and post-bail reform declined to 255 a year. The average admissions for non-violent felonies pre-bail reform were 705 a year and 279 post-bail reform. The average recidivism rate for misdemeanors was 47.6% and for non-violent felonies was 49.9%. Matt Weishaupt and Tom Angell discussed deferral cases. The average length of stay for pre-bail reform was 55.4% and increased to 84.7% post-bail reform.

The next step is to 1) establish a database to track arrest and re-arrest for non-qualifying offenses by communicating with OCIS and law enforcement agencies to access the data 2) evaluate case deferral by crime type/jurisdiction and rates of rearrest 3) develop methods to understand/evaluate rate of victimization 4) evaluate declining arrest rates by police agency. Pastor Perez asked if the analysis would include ethnicity and Gary answered that he can provide that data.

The committee also provided data to the City University of New York. To date, we have not received a response. There were no other questions or comments.

RTA Update—Hon. Joseph Egitto

Judge Egitto reported that there were seven AO cases from January 11th to date. Three of the seven cases were referred for probation adjustment. Most of the cases end up either adjusted or in Family Court. There is some progress on the ability to house AOs in secure detention. There has been discussion about building 60 to 80 beds at Woodfield. Judge Egitto announced that Judge Johnston in Beacon was certified as an accessible magistrate on February 24th. There were no questions or comments.

Centralized Arraignment—Hon. Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia

Judge Sullivan-Bisceglia reported that the Dutchess County Magistrates Association had their monthly meeting and Administrative Judge Minihan was present. They were able to discuss their goals for centralized arraignment with her. They are waiting to schedule a tour of the jail. The first step is to determine the location followed by putting an actual plan together. They are working on the plans with Arielle Bryant from the 9th Judicial District. There were no comments or questions.

Police Reform & Reinvention—Ken Roman

Ken reported that the committee will meet on March 31st. Ken introduced John Gildard who presented the data for Dutchess County's 2021 Police Officer Exam. The police exam was given on September 18, 2021. The county received a total of 1,380 applications and 925 sat for the exam--67%. Out of the 925 who took the exam, 903 passed the written section--97.6%. The county requested race and gender data. Out of the 1,380 applicants only 1,011 applicants reported their gender, which is 73%. There were 218 female applicants, or 21.6% and 793 male applicants, or 78.4% that reported. 1,035 applicants reported their race and ethnicity, or 75% of the total.

The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office and the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department offered tutorial classes to assist potential applicants in preparing for the exam. They had a

total of 95 people attend. Beekman Fire Department and Beacon Fire Department also held prep courses. They had a total of 118 people attend.

The next step is the agility test. Tom asked if there is a preparation for the agility test. Ken answered they tell the applicants what is expected for the agility test but about a 1/3 fail. There were no comments or questions.

CIC—Shirley Adams

Shirley reported that the virtual public forum on February 17th was successful. The Community Involvement Committee presented a virtual public forum to raise awareness about mental illness in our community. Special thanks to CJC members Mary Ellen, John Heller and Jean-Marie for helping with the project. Special thanks to Andrew O'Grady, who is the Executive Director of Mental Health America for Dutchess County. The collaboration between Mental Health America and the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department serves to address the needs of people who are affected by mental illness in our community. Chief Thomas Pape, joined by Lieutenant Broadhead and Linwood Burke, who is a behavioral specialist with Mental Health America, presented at the forum. John Timm, who is a consumer and advocate for people with mental illness, has his own nonprofit organization, "No Man Sits Alone." Also, a special thanks to Michele Romano for her help with outreach. There is a recording of the forum for anyone interested, contact Michele through email. There were no comments or questions.

Diversion—Steve Miccio

Steve was not present for the meeting.

Juvenile Justice—Karen DeSimone

Karen reported that the Juvenile Justice Committee met in January. Karmen Smallwood assisted with the Youth/Police Initiative presentation. She brought in leaders from other county YPI groups. At their last meeting, they formed a subcommittee to take a closer look at the population of youth who sexually offend. They will also look at treatment availability for those youth. The next meeting will be held on the 24th of March. Dr. Keith Cruise will attend this meeting to discuss the implementation of Probation's trauma screening initiative for all youth entering the system. Karen announced that this will be her last meeting as she is retiring on March 30th. Everyone wished her good luck. Mary Ellen expressed her appreciation to Karen and wished her all the best. There were no comments or questions.

Re-Entry—Tom Angell and Irma Machado

Tom reported that the committee met on the 17th of February and had a very good presentation by guest speakers Professor Vanessa Lyn of Marist College and retired Professor Molly Shanley who discussed women's initiatives and the writing group at the Dutchess County Jail. It was very encouraging to see how the higher educational institutions have taken the initiative to intersect with people in our correctional facility. It is particularly helpful for the women in the jail to have this opportunity and they are looking forward to future programing. Tom announced that Vassar College and Exodus Transitional Community courses will start again, there are six Exodus participants and

eight Vassar students. Their next committee meeting is the 21st of April. There was further discussion on the women's writing group at the new women's residence. There were no further comments or questions.

Victims—Kelly Bunt

Kelly thanked Gary Christensen for attending their meeting to discuss how bail reform has impacted victimization. Kelly and Sabrina met and DCFS is going to assist with the purchase of mobile hotspots. The next committee meeting is the 11th of March. No comments or questions.

Justice-Involved Women — Alisyn Gaffney

Alisyn reported that the committee met on February 2nd and toured the new women's residence. The committee was thrilled to be able to tour the beautiful home. They completed the re-entry guide and are waiting for final approval before distribution. Guest speaker Caramia Bacchiochi spoke about her previous criminal justice involvement. She started her own nonprofit, 'Hope on a Mission' commonly referred to as HOAM. HOAM provides meals three times per week: Saturday mornings, Saturday nights and Tuesday evenings to those in need on the corner of 600 Main Street in Poughkeepsie. They are looking for volunteers to help with serving meals. The committee is volunteering on April 5th in the evening. Alisyn extended an invitation to the Executive Committee to participate or donate items like water or snacks. The next committee meeting is April 16th. No comments or questions.

Special Populations—Kevin Warwick and Jon Heller

Jon reported that the committee met on February 14th. In addition to our regular updates, Marty spoke about the RECHARGE program. The next meeting is March 21st. No comments or questions.

6. **New Business**--The Annual Report has been completed and distributed for review.
7. **Old Business** --None
8. **Announcements** --None
9. **Adjourn** – A motion to adjourn was made by Karen DeSimone, seconded by Shirley Adams.
10. **Next Meeting May 10, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.**

In-person meetings will resume at 230 North Road in Poughkeepsie in May.